



NEWS RELEASE
September 24, 2010

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Philadelphia Seventh Grader Is Creator of 2010 *Lights On Afterschool* Poster

Poster Is Being Used Across the Country to Urge Participation in Nationwide Rally for Afterschool Programs

A diverse group of children holding hands inside a giant light bulb is the centerpiece of the official poster for *Lights On Afterschool 2010*, the only nationwide rally for afterschool programs. The artist is Lavionna Morris, a seventh grader at Harambee Charter School in Philadelphia, who attends the Harambee Afterschool Art Program. The Afterschool Alliance selected Lavionna's picture from among hundreds of entries in the student art contest. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, *Lights On Afterschool* will be held on October 21 this year with 7,500 events and rallies expected around the United States and at U.S. military bases worldwide.

"We are delighted to have our *Lights On Afterschool* poster designed by an afterschool student," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "Not only is it a beautiful and colorful work of art, it also showcases the talents and skills that can blossom in afterschool programs. Unfortunately, not every child who would like to participate in afterschool is able to. At this year's rallies, we are coming together to say that every child should have access to a quality afterschool program. These programs help working families, keep kids safe and inspire them to learn."

Across the nation, *Lights On Afterschool* events give youth a chance to showcase the skills they learn and talents they develop at their afterschool programs, and to send the message that millions more kids need quality afterschool programs. This year's events will include student performances, runs and walks, open houses, poetry slams, essay contests, art displays, tree lightings, carnivals, and much more. (A growing list of rallies is available online at www.AfterschoolAlliance.org.)

In support of the event, the Empire State Building will be lit up for the fourth year in a row and this year, for the first time, Mount Rushmore will also be lit up for a special *Lights On Afterschool* celebration.

In advance of *Lights On Afterschool* this year, the Afterschool Alliance will release a new special report from *America After 3 PM: A Household Survey on Afterschool in America*, the most in-depth study ever to explore how America's children spend their afternoons. This special report, *America After 3PM: From Big Cities to Small Towns*, will examine the differences in afterschool

participation, satisfaction and demand across rural, suburban and urban communities. Both the *America After 3PM* full report and this new special report are sponsored by JCPenney Afterschool, a charitable organization committed to making life-enriching afterschool programs available to more students and families.

The Afterschool Alliance and JCPenney Afterschool will release the latest findings at an event in Des Moines, Iowa on October 12. The report will also reveal city-level data on Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles and New York that will be featured at *Lights On* events in those cities.

Actress Rhea Perlman is a spokesperson for *Lights On Afterschool* and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is Founding Chair, a position he has held since 2001.

A copy of the 2010 *Lights On Afterschool* poster can be downloaded at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/imgs/loa/loa_poster_2010_PRINT.pdf.

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.